

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ABUJA 002188

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [NI](#) [LI](#) [ECOWAS](#)

SUBJECT: ECOWAS ON LIBERIA AND TOGO

REF: STATE 207095

1. In response to reftel, Charge met with National Security Advisor (NSA) Aliyu Mohammed Gusau on Friday, November 11. NSA said he would personally convey the contents of the message to President Obasanjo on the afternoon of November 11 on his return to Abuja.

2. PolMilOff called ECOWAS Executive Secretary Chambas on November 11 and conveyed the contents of the demarche. Chambas agreed with the US position and said that he had already spoken with Johnson-Sirleaf, who he said had made "helpful statements" and will continue to reach out to Weah. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the ECOWAS mediator for Liberia, is currently on the ground in Liberia and has been meeting with Weah. Chambas said Abubakar was planning to bring Weah to Abuja on Sunday, November 13 for meetings with ECOWAS and President Obasanjo. Chambas closed by saying that he (and by extension ECOWAS) remained satisfied that the election process was fair and transparent.

3. Charge and PolMilOff met with Chambas on November 14 to continue the discussion on Liberia. Weah did not, in fact, travel to Abuja on November 13. Abubakar and NTGL Chairman Bryant felt that Weah needed to remain in Liberia to help keep his supporters under control. ECOWAS is now planning for Weah to travel to Abuja on November 16 with Abubakar. Chambas said that he is very pleased with the situation in Liberia and that he believes the "loss is beginning to sink in" for Weah. African leaders, including the Presidents of Nigeria, South Africa, and Ghana, met in Abuja over the weekend to discuss the future direction of the African Union and issued a statement on Liberia (text below and transmitted to AF/RSA and AF/W).

4. On Togo, Chambas said Faure had just sent a delegation to Rome to meet with Gilchrist Olympio for the second time. The goal of Faure is to bring Olympio back to Togo, and the meetings are designed to lay the groundwork for that eventual action. Once Olympio is back in Togo, Faure plans to move ahead with parliamentary elections that will include the entire polity and will include a complete revision of the voter registration lists. Once the new parliament is seated, Faure told Chambas he intends to move ahead with a reform agenda. Moving now, with parliament not representative of national opposition elements, would doom any reforms.

5. Begin text of statement on Liberia:

African Leaders meeting in Abuja, Nigeria to discuss proposals on the Union Government of Africa, learnt with great satisfaction of the conduct of peaceful, transparent, free, and fair presidential elections in Liberia on November 8, 2005.

The Leaders commended the people of Liberia for the exemplary manner in which they comported themselves and for participating in the elections without resort to violence or acts of intimidation and commended also the National Elections Commission for a job well done.

They urged all Liberians to allow the electoral process to run its full course, and to use constitutional and legal means to redress any grievances arising from the elections.

The Leaders reminded the Liberian people of the many sacrifices they had made to end the crisis in their country and of the huge investment of the AU, the ECOWAS, the UN, and the international community in bringing about peace and democracy in Liberia. The Leaders called on the international community to continue to help in the post-election reconstruction of Liberia.

They called upon all Liberians to jealously guard the prevailing peace and to desist from any acts that are likely to return their country to crisis and undermine security, peace, stability, the rule of law and the reconstruction of their country.

End text.

FUREY